Heritage Plaque – The Last Forge

1. HBCC

At its meeting on 1st October 2025 the Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee resolved that a plaque should be installed to commemorate the last independent smithy/ forge in Faversham which operated until 1988, following a request from relation.

2. Research

The request received was for plaque to be mounted at 6a Garfield Place, following extensive research by Mr L Young and Mr S Rayner and the Faversham Society Via Ms L Parker, it has been determined that the forge was located where maisonettes 7 – 10 Garfield Place now stand. The relations who submitted the initial request are content that this is the correct location for the plaque.

3. Permissions

The Director of the Freehold company has confirmed that are happy for the plaque to mounted on the property and have suggest the location indicated below.



4. Style

The Committee are asked to agree the style and wording on the plaque.

SIZE:

CIRCULAR, C. 30CMS/12INS DIAMETER (AS EXISTING PLAQUES)

STYLE:

DARK BLUE GROUND WITH WHITE TYPE AND WHITE EDGING/RIM

WORDS:

(TOP)

Faversham Town Council

(MIDDLE)

FAVERSHAM'S LAST FORGE

The town's last independent forge, A C Revell, stood on this site from the 19th century until 1988

ALL CENTRED.

Example of a plaque in similar style for comparison.



This has been suggested following further research by Mr L Young (Appendix A)

5. Next Steps

i) To confirm cost of plaque (based on approved text)

ii) Apply for funding (SBC Members Grant)

iii) Apply for Advertising Consent from SBC

iv) Order and Mount the plaque

THE FORGE, GARFIELD PLACE

Suggestions for the style and content of a new plaque to be fixed to a wall of 7 to 10 Garfield Place, the location of the former A C Revell forge.

STATUS

Broad parameters are agreed for a new wall plaque to be installed in Garfield Place to commemorate Faversham's last independent smithy/forge, which operated there until 1988. Consideration is now being given to the style and content of the plaque.

Faversham has numerous plaques in various styles. The most usual type dates from the early 1990s when Faversham Town Council and the Faversham Society installed plaques commemorating people and locations significant to town history.

Those plaques have a silver ground with a black edge-trim. Each is circular and some 30 cms/12 inches in diameter, with a pressing of the town's civic 'three lions' seal and Latin motto at the top. The wording in the body of each plaque is in a black serif type. Each is fixed to walls by four evenly-spaced silver-headed screws.

This style is from some 35 years ago, looks dated and has less visual impact than similar, contemporary plaques elsewhere in England. It does not conform to the 'norm' of civic wall plaques used around the country, most notably by English Heritage, which is a broadly common style featuring a blue field with white type and edging (see sample images of contemporary wall plaques included later).

An audit of wall plaques was completed in 2025 by FTC and an inventory compiled.

CONTENT/STYLE OVERALL

It has been agreed the plaque should aim to mark the last independent forge in Faversham, which was in Garfield Place site and closed in 1988. It has also been agreed a brief text would be appropriate for that purpose. Brief because the matter to be noted can be expressed succinctly. Brevity should avoid 'squeezing a quart into a pint pot' to the detriment of legibility and appearance and reduce production costs.

In addition, it was noted in discussion that current plaques do not show who produced them or is responsible for them. Use of the town's civic 'three lions' seal and Latin motto as an identifier is considered unsatisfactory because at the required small scale it is visually opaque. In addition, many viewers will not understand the significance of the 'artwork' and few will able to translate its motto into English.

STYLE

For a more 'user friendly' product the plaque could follow national civic style. That is, circular of, say, 30cms/12 ins diameter, with a blue field and white type and edging. The face to be sans-serif, but if serif one in a more contemporary style to improve legibility. Heading in capitals and text upper and lower, again to improve legibility.

If a sans-serif face, it may demonstrate consistency to use the one widely used by FTC day-to-day (such as on note paper and for FTC's couchant lion logo and motto). Showing the town council's name would identify ownership and assist 'users' to later gain more information or to ask questions. If it is thought necessary to include an FTC image/logo, it is suggested the single couchant lion used for the council's day-to-day business is utilized, but it should be noted including artwork may increase costs.

SUGGESTED LAYOUT

The layout could, therefore, be (all centred):

TOP
Council's name

CENTRE
Description

FOOT (OPTIONAL)
FTC logo

SUGGESTED WORDS

Short and to the point, as discussed elsewhere, such as:

TOP
Faversham Town Council

CENTRE
FAVERSHAM'S LAST FORGE
The town's last independent forge, A C Revell, stood on this site from the 19th century until 1988

FOOT (OPTIONAL IMAGE)
FTC couchant lion logo

Laurence Young, September 2026


ENGLISH HERITAGE
DR. SARAH HIGINBOTHAM
Professor
Choir Member
Swimmer
FALL 2025


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